

63rd Signal Battalion FRG Newsletter

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

APRIL, 2005

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A Message From the Battalion Commander...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the work and efforts of the Battalion Family Readiness Groups. The participation among all the companies has been far above everyone's expectations. The FRG leaders continue to plan and coordinate events to make sure that each of the spouses of our deployed soldiers feel welcome. They also send out important information to all members of the Battalion.

I would like to thank Mrs. Dixon and all the FRG leadership for the support they have provided to our soldiers returning on emer-

gency leave, and to their families, both immediate and distant. Without the FRG's efforts and support none of us would be able to maintain the focus required in this environment.

I want to personally state how exceptional each soldier and company within the Battalion is performing their mission. We are making a difference in the communications being provided and it shows everyday by the praise our customers continue to give each of our soldiers.

LTC Barker



Proud and Ready!

A message from the FRG leader...

Hello and welcome to the second issue of our newsletter!

Thanks to each of you who have been participating in our events this year. We had a great turnout at our Super Bowl Party and the "Post-Valentine's Day Blues" party. A wonderful time was had by all!

Since December, we have held two very productive planning sessions and we have many more events in the works for this spring, summer, and on into the fall. You are all welcome to attend these planning sessions. We will probably hold one in late May or early June

and again in the fall. I will be sure to let you know when these sessions will take place.

Special thanks go to those who came out on March 1st and helped put together jars of cookie mix. The jars will be given to new members of our battalion to welcome them to the 63rd and we have put together packets of information as a guide to Ft. Gordon and the Augusta area.

Again, I'd like to encourage you to come out and participate in some company and battalion events. It's a great way to get to know other spouses and the

kids love playing together! We are lucky to have such a strong support base of volunteers who are really working to make this year full of activities that will help make the time pass more quickly! Hope to see you soon. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions, suggestions or comments.

Wishing you all a joyous spring,

Beth Dixon

Upcoming Events:

16 April:

Spring fling, Hilltop Riding stables 1-4 p.m.
Adults Night Out, Peppermill Restaurant 6:30 p.m.

30 April:

"How-To" workshop featuring Car Maintenance, 2 p.m.
BN Motorpool

7 May:

Mother's Day Ice cream Social, Family Outreach Center

21 May:

"Calling All Cooks" Pampered Chef fundraiser and cooking extravaganza

14 May:

Adults Night Out

Looking ahead...

2 June:

BN FRG meeting, with speaker from the new Parents Support Program, Family Outreach Center

18 June:

Father's Day Get Together, Family Outreach Center

Adults Night Out

4 July:

Star Spangled Picnic

A Message from the Rear Detachment Commander...

Hello to the Families of the 63d Signal Battalion! We have two months down and some more to go. I hope this newsletter finds all of you doing well.

I know that some of us have family issues and concerns, and others of us will have some surface as the deployment continues. It is important that you bring these issues and concern to your FGR leaders and to my attention so that we can

assist you, because that is what we are here for.

There is no perfect way to get through a deployment, but I do believe the best way to do it, is together. Each of the Company FRGs have planned a lot of events for us to get together. Please take advantage of this time and come out and participate, so that we can all deal with this deployment together and have fun while we are at it. I do want to give a very big thanks to all

of the volunteers for all the work they are doing. Please feel free to let us know your ideas and what we can do better. I am looking forward to seeing and hearing from everyone.

CPT Thomas



Useful Resources

Free Packing Materials!



Did you know US Postal Service is offering free packing materials to spouses and families of military members who are deployed overseas?

These products are to be used to mail care packages to service members. To take advantage of this service call: 1-800-610-8734 (press 1 for English & then 3 for an operator).

You can also access this information on the web: supplies.usps.gov

Army Emergency Relief

791-1922, Room 172 in Darling Hall

AER can help with:

Rent

Utilities (not phone or cable)

Food

Emergency Travel

Emergency POV

Upfront Funeral Expenses

Emergency Medical or Dental Expenses

They **cannot** help with:

Nonessential needs, ordinary leave or R&R, fines/legal expenses, home purchase or improvements, purchase/lease of auto, or marriage/divorce

Army One Source

1-800-464-8107 or online
www.armyonesource.com

Army One Source is a wonderful resource for military members. They are available 24 hours a day to offer counseling, advice, and support on a variety of issues, from parenting, to finances, work, emotional well-being, and much more! It is completely confidential and a particularly important resource during a deployment.

Classes and Workshops Presented by ACS

ACS offers a variety of classes each month. They also offer playgroups for children of all ages! For a complete list of classes and activities, please check out their website at <http://www.gordon.army.mil/acs/>. For April we'd like to highlight:

- **Parenting Children 1-4 "One Tool in Preventing Child Abuse"** Thurs. 07 April 05 0800-1200. Call 791-3579 to register. Free childcare available.

Did you know....

During the deployment you can **receive priority service at hospital pharmacy** by bringing in a copy of your spouses LES and orders?

Upcoming Events



Spring Fling

The Battalion Spring Fling will be hosted by Bravo Company on **Saturday, April 16th from 1-4 p.m.** at Hilltop Riding Stables. There will be games, pony rides, and a cook-out. Please bring a side dish to share. We hope to see you all there! Please contact Naomi Fenn for more information, 364-9307. *(In case of rain, the event will be at the Family Outreach Center)*

"How To Workshop"



Saturday, April 30th
2-4 p.m., BN Motorpool.

Come learn some valuable car maintenance from SGT Grable! Children's activities will be provided. Call Misty Ramirez for more info, 394-8696. Sponsored by Alpha Company.

"Calling All Cooks"

**Pampered Chef Fundraiser and
Cooking Extravaganza**
Saturday, March 21st
Family Outreach Center

Mark your calendars! More details coming soon.

Adults' Night Out

Held one Saturday each month, this is a great chance for adults to enjoy a night out together! For those with kids, it is held in conjunction with the "Parent's Night Out" sponsored by Child and Youth Services, so child-care is readily available. For more info on Parents Night Out, please contact Melissa at 791-6500. Thanks to all who attended our first night out, on the 19th of March.

The schedule is:

April 16th: 6:30 p.m. Dinner at the Peppermill 4461 Washington Road, Evans (next to Wal-mart)

May 14th: TBA

June 18th: TBA

Questions or suggestions? Contact Amanda Eddy, 726-2816 or Beth Dixon, 736-5293.

PWOC Dinner

The Protestant Women of Chapel will host a dinner for the battalion on **Thursday, April 28th at 6 p.m.** in Bicentennial Chapel. Please make plans to attend! Your contact reps will be calling you soon so we can give them an expected headcount. They will be providing childcare and kids activities so that adults can relax and enjoy dinner together.

We thank the PWOC for offering to provide this wonderful opportunity for fellowship and great food!

Thank You!



Special thanks go to the following people who have given special help to the FRG during the past few weeks:

**Amanda Eddy
Jessica Boroughs
Lee Hicks
Jennifer Green
Lehua Lashua**

**SPC Steven Hartman
SFC Paul Fenn
SSG Delgado
SPC Harrell
SPC Blackwell
SSG Gonzalez
SSG Romer
SGT Barker
SGT Ramirez
SGT Perry**

And special thanks, as always, to your company FRG leaders. We

said good-bye this month to Charlie Co. FRG leader, **Vanessa Rudd**, who has been with us since November, and we welcome **Linda Tualla** who will be taking over the position.

Special thanks from Bravo Co. FRG go to **Colleen Fernandez** and **Angela Gonzalez** who will be leaving us this month. Both of these ladies made great things happen and will truly be missed. Thank you!



Headquarters & Headquarters Company News

From the Commander:

Greetings from the desert to all the friends and families of the soldiers of HHC 63rd. We have been extremely busy in the first two months of being on the ground here in Kuwait. Many have been establishing their areas of responsibility and trying to work out routines for their appropriate section. We have had a few promotions since getting on the ground.

We began the deployment getting on ground here in Camp Virginia as a battalion and separating into our companies. The majority of the company stayed here in Virginia, while the Enode platoon was attached to Alpha Company and moved up to Camp Navistar. We still have a small group out of the BMO section located at Camp Doha.

Specialist Kerry Aubrey was promoted to Specialist. Sergeant Jered McCrary was promoted from Special-

ist. Sergeant Chante Bundy was promoted from Specialist. All were promoted in a ceremony in March. I am sure there will be many to follow these great soldiers in the weeks to come.

Thank you each for your support of your family member during this current deployment. I know it means all to each of them to know of the support that stands behind them while being away from their loved ones.

1LT Choat

From your FRG Leader:

Spring Greetings from your friendly FRG Leader,

Thanks to everyone who attended our March FRG meeting at Chuck-E-Cheese's. It was a big hit!

We have several things being planned for the upcoming months. There will be a **BN Wide Spring Fling on the 16th** at Hilltop Stables. On **May 21st**, HHC is planning to have a

Pampered Chef Fundraiser! So, bring yourself and a friend and receive a free gift! I think this will be a great opportunity to earn some funds! We are also busy planning our big 4th of July picnic. Any suggestions for this event will be greatly appreciated. Our next regular **FRG meeting** is scheduled for **Wed., April 27th**. Hope to see you then!

Congratulations to the Bondesson, Dolo, and Shaffer families who all recently welcomed new babies! Our sympathy goes out to Chaplain Militti whose mother recently passed away. We are thinking of you and your family!

We are currently looking for volunteers to fill several positions, so please let me or Mrs. Lashua know if you are interested! Take care and thank you for all that you do to support your Family Readiness Group!

Stacey Gibson



Alpha Company News

From the Commander:

To the Wildcat Family:

Greetings from Kuwait! Our journey has just begun, but we will persevere. Most soldiers are still adjusting to the environment. The weather is relatively cool and sand storms have not taken their toll.

All soldiers on Camp Buehring and Camp Doha are living in trailers or buildings with central air and heating. These buildings have hard floors with real beds. Also, these camps have real showers with tiled floors. The main body of Alpha Company lives at Camp Buehring. Currently, our work schedule consists of twelve hour days which allows enough time for soldiers to call home, conduct physical training, to do correspondence courses and/or complete college courses. Overall, morale is relatively high.

Even though we are not at Fort Gordon, significant events continue to take place. Alpha Company promoted

the following soldiers effective March 1, 2005: PFC Cruz to SPC, PFC Cook to SPC, PV2 Harris to PFC, PVT Oshaughnessy to PV2 and 2LT Gause to 1LT. SGT Julian Jackson reenlisted for five years on March 3, 2005. Again, I would like to send out a special congratulation to these soldiers and family members.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the Family Readiness Group for their dedicated support - only through you, we can all succeed. **"One Team, One Fight!"**

CPT Williams & 1SG Cousins

From your FRG Leader:

I would first like to say congratulations to the Reliford family, the Gaither family, and the Murray family on their new arrivals!

I also would like to extend an invitation for all of you to attend one of our

many fun and exciting meetings in the months to come. Your phone contact reps should be calling you soon with more information. I would love to see more faces at your meetings. If there is something you would like us to do as a group, please let me know. I want us to have fun and get to know each other because we are a family! If you come once, hopefully we can keep you coming back time and time again.

If you need anything or have questions, please feel free to call your phone contacts or myself at anytime. My phone number is 706-394-8696.

Hope to see you soon!

Misty Ramirez

Upcoming Events:

- Mary Kay Party: 14 April, 6 p.m. at the FOC, "An Evening of Beauty" Door prizes given!
- Car Maintenance Workshop: 30 April, 2 p.m. (This is a BN wide event that we will be hosting. If you are interested in helping plan this event, please contact Misty!)



Bravo Company News

From the 1SG:

This is the newsletter events from Bravo Company. We have had many re-enlistments, promotion, and new arrivals this past month. Three officers have been promoted in the Big Dawg Family this month. CPT Gee was promoted on the beach in KNB, 1LT Gaston in Bucca, and 1LT Dorr at the SPOD, way to go sirs. The Big Dawgs also had 3 Specialists promoted to Sergeant this month, get ready for the NCO life SGT Briggs, SGT Rintamaa, and SGT Ar-gudo. We had PV2 George get promoted to PFC this month also, keep working for that SPC.

The Big Dawgs don't like to leave the family either. We had 7 Dawgs re-enlist this month. SSG Revis, SGT O'Quinn, SGT Boroughs, SGT Cunningham, SPC Baitey, SGT Briggs, and SPC Rafael Stewart. The de-

ployed Big Dawg Family got bigger with the arrival of some lost pups from rear detachment. 2LT Nagell, SSG Costello, SPC Morgan, SSG Perry, and SPC Webb arrived in the last two months to join the family. We also had to new arrivals to the family of Big Dawgs, SSG Walker and SGT Boyd, welcome. "Big Dawgs, Fit to Fight"

1SG Ross

From your FRG Leader:

Can you believe it's Spring already? Where does time go? Our FRG has been keeping busy while our loved ones are gone. We made a personalized banner that was sent earlier this month over to the unit to hang up in the Co. HQ and in March we had a great time at Chuck-E-Cheese's compliments of Operation Comfort Funds. With Summer right around the corner we have even more events planned such as a **trip to Riverbanks Zoo on May 14th** and a **camping**

trip out at Gordon Lakes sometime in **June**. Please be on the look out for dates and announcements of more upcoming events.

We celebrate with the Romer family in welcoming Pierce Charles, Born March 9th. We also had some bigger DAWGS join the Dawg house recently as we welcome CPT Weare, his wife Samantha and their three children. CPT Weare will be assuming command sometime in April.

The Big Dawgs must also bid farewell to some fellow DAWGS who are leaving the house for bigger and better adventures. We say good-bye to CPT Fernandez, Colleen and daughter, Panthea and to SSG Gonzalez, his wife Angela and their three children.

Great things are happening here back at home and abroad with the Bravo Big Dawgs. Keep your eyes and ears open. You'll be hearing more about us soon!

Naomi Fenn



Charlie Company News

From the Commander:

Hello again Charlie Company spouses, children, families, and friends of the deployed Charlie Rock soldiers. As always, we appreciate all of your support from back home.

It doesn't seem like we just said farewell about two months ago because we are so busy that the time has passed extremely fast for us. All of our Soldiers continue to hang tough just as many of you continue to make it through every day ordeals without your spouses.

Although separated, we all continue to keep in good contact with our families and friends via the Internet, phone calls, and the postal service. Charlie Company soldiers still continue to excel day in and day out as we continue to accomplish our mission here in Kuwait.

I know from experience that over

time family issues and concerns will surface for some families due to this year long deployment. I also know from experience that through frequent communication, trust, proper financial planning, and a continued faith in God all families are capable of creating and maintaining a stable and enriched household. I am glad to help out anytime that I can so please feel free to contact me whenever the need is there. 1SG Benjamin and I intend to help with and resolve any issues that might arise from your loved ones being deployed.

CPT Smith

From your FRG Leader:

Greetings!

My name is Linda Tualla and I am the new C Co. FRG leader. I do look forward and am quite excited to working with you all. I hope you will help me get to know you by at-

tending some of our many events that we have scheduled. Each Monday night we have Game Night and every Friday night we have Movie Night. These were formerly held at Vanessa Rudd's house, but we will be making changes over the next few weeks and will let you know when those changes are in order.

Also, we have had great participation at our "**Dining Out**" nights every other **Thurs., March 31st** we will dine at Tony Roma's and **April 21st** we will be at Monterrey. We hope you will make plans to join us for one of these fun evenings! Everyone is welcome! Just don't forget to R.S.V.P. with me!

Be sure to mark your calendars for an important **FRG meeting on Mon., April 18 at 6 p.m.** in the Family Outreach Center. I hope many of you will attend and help share some ideas of things we can do during the next few months. We will also elect some officers for our company. I hope to see you all soon! Please contact me if you have any questions.

Linda Tualla

63rd SIG BN FRG
1040 Alexander Drive
Apt. 3214
Augusta, GA 30909

We want to keep you informed!

If your contact information has changed, please contact your company FRG leader or the BN leader as soon as possible. If you are not receiving phone calls or emails, we may have your information incorrect, so please let us know!

This newsletter is intended to be a resource for the members of the 63rd Signal Battalion FRG. If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter or other correspondence, please call Beth Dixon, 706-736-5293.

We're on the web! Check us out at:

www.gordon.army.mil/63sig/

Interested in volunteering? Need more information? Contact your FRG Leader:

HHC: Stacey Gibson

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Bravo: Naomi Fenn

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